Waterway and basic infrastructure faciilties such as navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids have been provided. The amount spent out on development and maintenance of National Waterway No. 1 from 1986-87 to 2002-03 is approximately Rs. 118.43 crores. The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation and some private operators are already operating on this waterway. However, at the moment, the frequency of shipping service on this route is low, mainly on account of non-availability of adequate cargo.

Problems faced by CIWTC Ltd.

1609. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the confederation of CIWTC Ltd. met him in Kolkata and submitted a memorandum on various problems and difficulties being faced by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during the meeting he assured the employees' representatives of quick action and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (d) Representations dated 4.7.2003 and 22.7.2003 have been received from the Confederation of CIWTC Ltd. These representations relate to (i) allegations against the Management and (ii) revival package under implementation. Action has been initiated to examine the representations.

Revival Package for CIWTC Ltd.

1610. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CIWTC Ltd. for its revival within a span of four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when;

(c) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to go in for the disinvestment of the CIWTC without awaiting the results of the revival package; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 3.1.2002 which *inter-alia* provided for monitoring of implementation of the rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by the Government for the revival of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC)

(c) and (d) The Government is committed to the revival of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC) as per the approved revival plan. The disinvestment of the Corporation is as per the Government policy to diinvest "non-strategic" Public Sector Undertakings. The revival plan under implementation has been kept in view while the process of disinvestment of CIWTC is being put in place.

Tonnage tax regime for shipping industry

1611. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is going to lose out Rs. 5075 crores from its cumulative GDP and Rs. 501 crores from its cumulative tax revenue in the next 10-15 years if prevalent tax system in the country for shipping industry is persisted with;

(b) whether TERI recommended for immediate shift from the corporate tax structure to the tonnage tax regime to help the Indian Shipping Industry to grow further;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by TERI; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) The Government do not maintain such figures. However, the fact and figures in the question are based on TERI report with a assumption that present taxation would continue.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. TERI has recommended the introdcution